

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INITIAL JAPANESE PRESS PARTY REACTION TO RAMBOUILLET
CONFERENCE

SUMMARY. INITIAL JAPANESE REACTION TO RAMBOUILLET
CONFERENCE WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE. CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS AND RESULTS DOMINATED TOKYO PRESS DURING
ENTIRE CONFERENCE PERIOD AND JAPANESE PRINCIPALS ARE
ALL ON RECORD AS SATISFIED WITH CONFERENCE OUTCOME.
CONSERVATIVE PARTY SPOKESMEN HAVE INCLINED TO GREATER
HYPERBOLE, WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES PREDICTABLY
NEGATIVE. ONE OF JAPAN'S MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESSMEN
HAS DESCRIBED CONFERENCE SIGNIFICANCE AS HISTORIC AND
EPOCHAL. EDITORIALS NOV 19 GENERALLY SAW CONFERENCE
AS A FIRST STEP, WELCOMED US-FRENCH COMPROMISE ON
EXCHANGE RATES, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT LACK OF
CONCRETE INITIATIVES ON NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEM AND
LOOKED FORWARD TO FOLLOW-UP AT UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL
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ECONOMIC CONFERENCES. PRIME MINISTER MIKI, IN NOV 19

TOKYO PRESS CONFERENCE, AGAIN STRESSED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONFERENCE AND HIS SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM EARLY NOV, JAPANESE PRESS BEGAN TO SHOW INTEREST IN GOJ INTER-MINISTERIAL JOCKEYING FOR POSITION WITH INCREASING COVERAGE OF MINISTRY BY MINISTRY MEETINGS AND FINAL SESSIONS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER, ON GOJ POLICY TOWARD CONFERENCE. FROM MIKI DEPARTURE FOR PARIS ON NOV 13 UNTIL ISSUANCE OF RAMBOUILLET DECLARATION, ADVANCED NATION SUMMIT CONFERENCE COMPLETELY DOMINATED TOKYO PRESS.

2. ALL THREE PRINCIPALS OF JAPANESE DELEGATION NOV 17 HELD POST-CONFERENCE PRESS INTERVIEWS EXUDING CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM. MIKI IN PARIS, EMPHASIZED POINTS THAT CONFERENCE ACHIEVED GREATER RESULTS THAN EXPECTED, CREATING HOPE AND CONFIDENCE, AND THAT THROUGH JAPAN'S PARTICIPATION LINKAGE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR FIRM TIE BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC-ASIAN REGIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA IN PARIS SAID CONFERENCE REVEALED OUTLOOK FOR GENERAL TREND OF ECONOMIC POLICIES AMONG ADVANCED NATIONS FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO COME, AND THAT NORTH-SOUTH ISSUE WILL SHORTLY BECOME OBJECT OF CONCRETE STUDY. FINANCE MINISTER OHIRA IN TOKYO STRESSED THAT US AND FRANCE ENDED "THEOLOGICAL CONTROVERSY" ON EXCHANGE RATES AND BASIS FOR CONCRETE ACTION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. HE ADDED CONFERENCE HAD ACCOMPLISHED MUCH MORE THAN HE EXPECTED.

3. PREDICTABLY, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY IDE ISSUED STATEMENT DESCRIBING CONFERENCE AS "EPOCHAL." LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE PRAISED PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S POSITIVE ACTIONS AND NOTED JAPANESE POSITIONS WERE ACCEPTED TO SOME EXTENT; HE ALSO UNDERLINED SIGNIFICANCE OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ASIA.

4. OPPOSITION PARTY REACTION, NOT SURPRISINGLY, WAS GENERALLY NEGATIVE. JSP SAID CONFERENCE FORMED NEW POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ALLIANCE IN CONFRONTATION WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS AND RUNNING COUNTER TO RELAXATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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TENSIONS WITH SOCIALIST NATIONS; "MIKI'S EMPHASIS THAT HE IS REPRESENTING ASIA SHOWS JAPAN'S BIG POWER-ISM, AND WILL RESULT IN INCURRING DISTRUST AND CRITICISM OF ASIAN NATIONS." JCP SAID "PROCEEDINGS AND RESULTS OF CONFERENCE WERE SIMPLY TO COPE WITH CRISIS OF AMERICAN-LED CAPITALIST STRUCTURE," AND "IT IS COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS TO SAY IT IS 'GREAT SUCCESS'." KOMEITO SAID AIM OF CONFERENCE WAS POLITICAL UNITY OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL NATIONS TO

COPE WITH ECONOMIC CRISIS. RESULTS MUST RATHER BE SOUGHT IN CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION." DSP WELCOMED CONFIRMATION OF PRINCIPLE OF EXPANDED TRADE, CRITICIZED DECLARATION FOR MERELY SETTING FORTH ABSTRACT AGREEMENT ON SETTLEMENT OF NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEM, AND REGRETTED ABSENCE OF CONCRETE JAPANESE INITIATIVES.

5. BUSINESS CIRCLE REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTED THAT RATHER THAN QUESTION RESULTS OF CONFERENCE, IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT HISTORIC AND EPOCHAL SIGNIFICANCE LAY IN THE FACT THAT TOP LEADERS OF THE SIX NATIONS AGAIN MUTUALLY RECOGNIZED AND DISCUSSED CRISIS OF FREE MARKET ECONOMIC STRUCTURE" (US-JAPAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE YOSHIZANE IWASA).

6. IN ESSENCE, PRESS EDITORIALIZED NOV 19 THAT RAMBOUILLET CONFERENCE WAS BUT A BEGINNING, WAS GRATIFIED OVER FRANCO-US MONETARY COMPROMISE, WAS DISAPPOINTED OVER LACK OF CONCRETE MEASURES ON NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEM, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AS MEANS TO SHOW REAL PROGRESS IN OVERCOMING WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS. ASAHI ASSERTED THAT DECLARATION ADOPTED COMMON-SENSE LINE AND THAT CONFERENCE WAS STEP FORWARD AND WELCOMED FRANCO-US MONETARY COMPROMISE. EDITORIAL CLAIMED WEAKEST PART IN DECLARATION WAS ON NORTH-SOUTH QUESTION, AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH SHOULD EXPLORE WAYS TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM. YOMIURI AND SANKEI EMPHASIZED THAT THE CONFERENCE IS ONLY STARTING POINT, WHILE WELCOMING THE THE FRANCO-US COMPROMISE ON CURRENCY. SANKEI ALSO PLACED HOPE ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE IN DEC. MAINICHI PREDICTED SEVERE TEST AHEAD OF JOINT DECLARATION, CLAIMING THAT WORLD UNCLASSIFIED

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ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SETTLED BY THE SIX ADVANCED NATIONS ALONE. AFTER WELCOMING THE FRANCO-US COMPROMISE ON EXCHANGE RATES AND APPROVING NOTION OF JAPAN AS ASIA REPRESENTATIVE, EDITORIAL ASSERTED RECONSTRUCTION OF WORLD ECONOMY WILL BE IMPRACTICABLE WITHOUT REFORM OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY COMPATIBLE WITH TRUE NATIONAL INTERESTS. TOKYO SHIMBUN STATED THAT DECLARATION PRODUCED NO CONCRETE RESULTS AT ALL, BUT IT DID WELCOME FRANCO-US COMPROMISE. EDITORIAL CONTINUED THAT IT WILL WATCH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES SCHEDULED FOR COMING MONTHS. NIHON KEIZAI EDITORIALIZED THAT DECLARATION DOES NOT HAVE BINDING POWER, BUT IS STILL NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN A TREATY IN CLARIFYING INTERNATIONAL FAITH IN JOINT ACTION. YET EDITORIAL

WONDERED IF SIX ADVANCED NATIONS TRULY FELT THEIR
SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OR IF THEY WERE NOT "DREAMING
DIFFERENT DREAMS IN THE SAME BED."

7. AT TOKYO PRESS CONFERENCE NOV 19, PRIME MINISTER
MIKI PRONOUNCED CONFERENCE A SUCCESS AND COVERED A GREAT
DEAL OF ALREADY FAMILIAR GROUND. THERE WAS NO DOUBT,
HOWEVER, ABOUT HIS PERSONAL SATISFACTION WITH
CONFERENCE OUTCOME.

8. FURTHER OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE REACTION WILL BE REPORTED
IN AN EARLY CABLE.
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